

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 04035 112222Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 /077 W

----- 097354

R 111755Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6305

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONGEN MILAN

AMCONGEN NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 4035

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: POLITICAL IMPACT OF SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT

1. SECRETARY SIMON'S THREE DAY VISIT TO ROME HAD A MOST POSITIVE AND HELPFUL IMPACT ON ITALIAN PUBLIC AND POLITICAL WORLD. FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR: (A) AMERICA IS PREPARED TO HELP ITALY IN ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IF (I) ITALY TIGHTENS IT'S BELT AND TAKES APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE MEASURES AND (II) IT DOES NOT HAVE COMMUNISTS IN ITS GOVERNMENT; (B) AMERICA DOES NOT WANT TO SEE COMMUNISTS IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT THE CHOICE IS UP TO THE ITALIANS; AND (C) IF THERE SHOULD BE COMMUNISTS IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, ITALY COULD NOT COUNT ON THE USG TO HELP ECONOMICALLY AND FINANCIALLY, AND SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD REQUIRE A PROFOUND REVISION IN US-ITALIAN RELATIONS. SECRETARY SIMON'S FRANK TALK ABOUT THE NEED FOR UNPOPULAR AUSTERITY MEASURES AND THE POLITICAL WILL TO UNDERTAKE THEM, COUPLED WITH AN IMPLIED REMINDER THAT ITALY IS DEPENDENT ON THE WESTERN WORLD (AND ESPECIALLY THE US) FOR MAJOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, SHOULD CAUSE MANY TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 04035 112222Z

THE DESIRABILITY OF GETTING THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT IN

ORDER TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS--PRIMARILY BECAUSE SIMON RELATED THE POLITICAL DILEMMA TO THE AVERAGE CITIZEN'S STANDARD OF LIVING. WHILE THERE WILL BE SOME CARPING AND PROBABLY CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE PRESS HAS TO DATE DONE RELATIVELY STRAIGHT AND PROMINENT REPORTING OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

2. SOME OF THE POLITICIANS WITH WHOM SIMON MET HAVE INDICATED APPRECIATION OF HIS FRANKNESS, AND GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SIMON SAID THINGS THAT THEY WISH THEY HAD SAID THEMSELVES. WHILE WE ARE NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, THE VISIT MAY INDEED ENCOURAGE SOME OF THEM TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE COURAGEOUS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. VOLPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME04035
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760093-0955
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760371/aaaackkj.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL IMPACT OF SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, (SIMON, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006